

Pallava Inscription at Panamalai

by

G. Jouveau-Dubreuil

Professeur au Collège de Pondichéry.

(6, rue Dumas, Pondichéry.)



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Panamalai is situated in the Villupuram Taluqa, South Arcot District (see Sewell's Madras Lists, vol. I, p. 209 ; and Madras district gazetteers — South Arcot, by Francis (1906) p. 209).

There are two Pallava inscriptions here. The first one, published in "South Indian Inscriptions by Hultzsch," vol. I, p. 24, No. 31, is engraved not on the walls of a cave-temple, but it is found on the rock in a natural cavern.

The second inscription runs round the outside of the shrine of the temple culminating the rock. It is in excellent preservation, as it is engraved on granite slabs ; but the beginning and the end of the inscription are covered by the walls of a mandapam.

On a visit to Panamalai, on the first of January 1915, I have taken a fac-simile of that inscription and the subjoined transcripts are prepared from mechanical copies made on the spot.

The inscription consists of Sanskrit verses, an eulogy of the Pallava King named Râjasimha.

The style of the temple is very similar to the style of the Kailâsanatha temple at Kâñchîpuram ; but the characters of the inscription are different : the alphabet of the inscription (No. 24, p. 12, S. I. I.) round the outside of the shrine of Râjasimhesvara at Kâñchîpuram is an extremely florid character. The characters at Panamalai are not florid and resemble those of the Kâram and Kasakudi plates (S. I. I., vol. II., part III).

Râjasimha is a very characteristic biruda of Narasimha-varman II, who constructed "a stone temple for Siva resembling Kailâsa" (G. O. No. 832, 28th July 1911, p. 61, Velurpalaiyam plates) called "Râjasimhesvara which

उदपादि प्रथितभुजवली द्वोपिंशः पुरारै॥[१५] द्वोपिना-
मोथ तन्मास्त्रिचितगुरुतपोनिग्म-
कादा निरासीदामायदं मविद्याविसरद्वव महोवल्ह वारव्यः
यस्मादेष पयिविहिवपदाद्वानैमाननीमो मन्दाकिव्याप्रवा-
हः शशिनद्वव महानन्वयः पल्लवानाम॥[१६] सम्राजमन्वमे-
नमेवंभूनाविरजसां भूभुजपल्लवानामद्व-
ष्टापल्लवानाविमलतरभूरुहानजवंशोद्धवानामकैलो-
रक्षिणजातृविणहवमदिचक्रविख्यातकीर्त्तय्योद्धवा
विम्बलादगुद्वव***[१७] भुजद्वविणावभासीसल्यो
वितं समरद्वष्टमश्रीः प्रभामयो राजसोद्धजेतिविभ्र-
तपुण्यकीर्त्तैरुद्ववशत्रवपकञ्जरराजसोद्धः हते। द्वि-
पद्वष्टसमच्चयानांकमौचकल्योणपरम्पराणां
वितैरेगदासंभूतभक्तिः प्रतैधमेसद्व

Narasimhapotavarman has caused to be built " (Vakkaleri grant of Vikramāditya II: Ind. Ant., vol. VIII, pp. 23 ff. and S. I. I., vol. I, p. 146); (see also Ep. Ind., vol. III., No. 48, p. 359).

Râjasimha " the (very) king of lions on the high mountain (viz.) the prosperous Pallava family " was the immediate successor of Paramesvaravarman I. (G. O., No. 538, 28th July 1909, p. 78) but not certainly his son, perhaps his son's son (G. O., No. 832, 28th July 1911, p. 61). Râjasimha is the builder of the shore temple at Mavalipuram (G. O., No. 961, 2nd August 1913).

In the Panamalai inscription occurs the name of a King Mahivalla the chief of the Pallava dynasty. Probably Mahi-valla is Pallava (Mahi-Palla), the father of the Pallavas.

TRANSLATION.

(Verse 1.) Drôni, famous by the strength of his shoulders was born then.

(Verse 2.) The latter who was very holy had for son Mahivalla as the Vedas generate sciences. Mahivalla was so very just that the Pallava race, his posterity, was as abundant as the waters of the Ganga and as famous as the princes of the Lunar dynasty.

(Verse 3.) In that illustrious family of Pallavas, which bore more worthily than any others of the same gotra, the name of saint Bharadvâja, came forth, as Guha (Subramaniam) generated by Siva, a prince who became illustrious in the world by distributing money to his people during famine.

(Verse 4.) All his might is in the strength of his arm. He has been never defeated in war. He is famous. He is named Râjasimha, for he is indeed a royal lion to his enemies. Blessed be the readers of his history. He was born by Heaven's grace. He is the terror of his enemies. He can even conquer the fire. He is pious.

Pondicherry, July 1915.